

Weekly Letter from our DRE

October 6, 2020

During this first week of remote learning for your children, I am lacking in human and technology resources, but I am not lacking in spiritual resources for you. Spiritual resources continue to overflow. We need to remain open to receive these heavenly gifts from our heavenly Father.

My overall approach to helping children and families grow in their faith is to “fall in love with God.” When we fall in love with Him, everything falls into its proper place. Anyone who has fallen in love with anyone else; man, woman or your child, knows that you drop everything for that person. God is a person, three in One.

Falling in love with God is an ongoing action. It is not stagnant and certainly not boring. We keep seeking Him; we keep finding Him; and keep falling in love with Him. The more we seek Him; the more we find Him, the more we love Him. And this spiritual path becomes a beautiful loop of grace that shapes our lives and the lives of our family and those around us.

Below is a story that I heard at a funeral many years ago about surrendering one’s life to God. It is through death that we receive life and receive it abundantly. This is Jesus’ promise to us. Experiences of death and life have many forms. This also is the great paradox of the Catholic faith, which includes redemptive suffering. It is through death that comes life. This is a lesson that we keep learning and why we need a Savior. We cannot save ourselves.

Bicycling with God

At first, I saw God as my observer, my judge, keeping track of the things I did wrong, so as to know whether I merited Heaven or hell when I die. He was out there sort of like the president...I recognized his picture when I saw it, but I didn’t really know Him.

Later, when I began to get acquainted with God, it seemed as though life became like a ride on a tandem bicycle. I noticed that God was on the back seat helping me pedal.

I don’t know just when it was that He suggested we change places, but life has not been the same since. Life with God, that is. God makes life exciting!

When I had control, I thought that I knew the way. I always tried to find the shortest distance between two points. It was predictable, but rather boring and unsatisfying.

When He took the lead, that changed. He knows delightful long-cuts up mountains, through rocky places at breakneck speeds. It was all I could do to hang on! Although it looked like madness, He said, "Pedal!"

I worried and was anxious and asked, "Where are you taking me?" He laughed and didn't answer. Slowly but surely, I started to learn to trust Him. I forgot my boring life and entered into the adventure. And whenever I would say, "I'm scared," He'd lean back and touch my hand.

He took me to people with gifts that I needed, gifts of healing, acceptance, and joy. They gave me their gifts to take on my journey, our journey, God's and mine.

Shortly after we were on our way again, He said, "Give the gifts away, they are extra baggage and too much weight." So I did, to the people we met along the way. As I gave, I found that, in giving, I received more and our burden became light.

At first, I did not trust Him in control of my life. I thought He'd wreck it, but He knows bike secrets! He knows how to make it bend to take sharp corners, how to jump to clear big rocks, and how to fly over scary passages. So I'm learning to shut up and pedal in the strangest of places. I am beginning to enjoy the view and the cool breeze on my face with my delightful, constant companion, my Lord and my God, Christ Jesus.

And when I'm sure I just can't do it anymore, He smiles to me and says, "Pedal."

Blessings and peace in your week!

Margaret Waldron

DRE, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish

mwaldron@olphglenview.org

847-998-5289